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The Chat

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South Carolina

Briefs for the Files

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2013 Fall Bird Counts in South Carolina

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Five counts were held for the Fall 2013 Bird Count in September: Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Aiken counties and Congaree National Park. Seventy-two birders in the field and 19 at feeders recorded 149 species and 12687 individuals. Highlights included a Calliope Hummingbird and an estimated 647 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Greenville. Greenville and Spartanburg each reported single Rufous Hummingbirds as well. Single Mississippi Kites were reported by Spartanburg and Congaree National Park. Aiken had the lone Eastern Whip-poor-will recorded for all counts. Twenty-five species of warblers were reported, including a Connecticut in Greenville.

Greenville County: September 21, 90 species, 3335 individuals

Compiler: J. B. Hines
5258 Chesnee Hwy
Chesnee, SC 29323

Participants: Dave Baker, Joan Baker, Shelby Birch, Jennifer Bruce, Marion Clark, Jeff Click, Donnie Coody, Brad Dalton, Denise Dupon, Ed Engasser, Don Faulkner, Elizabeth Galloway, Chip Gilbert, J. B. Hines, Rob Hunnings, Jane Kramer, Tim Lee, Margaret McDavid, John Melson, Pam Melton, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Linda Sharp, Dennis Trapp, Judy Webb, Suzi Zickos

The Greenville County, SC 2013 Fall Migration Count was held on Saturday, September 21st. Weather conditions were unfavorable this year with a low of 64F and high of 74F with light rain most of the day. Seven parties/areas were covered by 28 participants. The group species total was 90 with 3335 individuals.

Notable species(rare/unusual, unusually high numbers, etc): Green-winged Teal (6) at Berry's Mill Pond, Bald Eagle (1), Common Raven (1), Dark-eyed Junco (2), Great Egret (2), Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (647). An average count of 550 (estimated based on nectar consumed) were at Judy and Charles Webb's feeders at Lake Lanier. They also had an early Calliope Hummingbird again and an adult male Rufous Hummingbird. The best bird of the count was the Connecticut Warbler at Wilson's Farm, a rare species in spring but even more unusual in fall migration.

Spartanburg County: September 8, 89 species, 3758 individuals

Compiler: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307-2215

Participants: Carole Anderson, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Vince Conners, Cheryl Cooksey, Dan Codispoti, Linda Deahl, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Jack Jennings, Flip Jones, Jeanette Keepers, Don Knight, Marilyn Knight, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Bob Scott, Kay Wealden, Richard Wealden, Terri Whitaker, Sarah Willis, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg had a reduced number of participants, but still had a good Fall Count with 89 total species, including 10 warbler species. Sparrows and blackbirds were scarce. Two chimneys attracted 1235 migrating Chimney Swifts at dusk. Lake Blalock yielded an adult and a juvenile Bald Eagle, as well as a Mississippi Kite. Our best bird was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a new record for Spartanburg County.

Cherokee County: September 28, 69 species, 1178 individuals

Compiler: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Fielding Link, Megan Turner

We had a limited number of birders, but did rather well, finding 12 species of warblers. The Loggerhead Shrike is always a good bird in the upstate.

Aiken County: September 21, 95 species, 3762 individuals

Compiler: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Dr.
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Dorie Brenneman, Ron Brenneman, Mike Caudell, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Eric Haskell, Carl Huffman, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, George Reeves, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Mark Vukovitch, Anne Waters, Calvin Zippler

Congaree National Park: September 22, 61 species, 654 individuals

Compiler: John Grego

Participants: Ron Ahle, John Grego, Kathleen O'Grady, Jeanie Prothro, Sallie Prugh, Alice Steinke

A Fall NAMC Count was held September 22 at Congaree National Park. Owls and thrushes were heard pre-dawn, then participants in a single group covered portions of the Bluff Trail, Boardwalk Loop, and Sims Trail in the morning, and Little Buckhead in the afternoon. McCords Ferry causeway and the Bluff Campground were covered in the early evening by lingering participants. A total of 61 species were seen, including a late Prothonotary Warbler at the park's parking lot. Some good soaring birds were seen at the former hunt club clearing, including Broad-winged Hawk, a late juvenile Mississippi Kite, and a Wood Stork. Good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were heard near Weston Lake. Warbler variety was low, though a Blue-winged Warbler was seen along Sims Trail. Interesting sights included a flock of over 100 Fish Crows that flew south from the bank of Bates Old River in the late afternoon.

Table 1. Fall 2013 bird counts in South Carolina

| | Greenv | Spart | Cherok | Aiken | Congar | Total |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | | | | 33 | | 33 |
| Canada Goose | 159 | 206 | 6 | 46 | | 417 |
| Wood Duck | 22 | 13 | | 15 | | 50 |
| Mallard | 115 | 89 | | 3 | | 207 |
| Northern Pintail | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Green-winged Teal | 6 | | | | | 6 |
| Northern Bobwhite | | 4 | | 9 | | 13 |
| Wild Turkey | 12 | 30 | 24 | 23 | | 89 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Wood Stork | | | | 106 | 1 | 107 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | 3 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Anhinga | | | | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Great Blue Heron | 10 | 15 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 39 |
| Great Egret | 2 | | 1 | 29 | 1 | 33 |
| Snowy Egret | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Little Blue Heron | | | | 33 | | 33 |
| Cattle Egret | | | | 180 | | 180 |
| Green Heron | 2 | 7 | | | 1 | 10 |
| White Ibis | | | | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Black Vulture | 5 | 41 | 11 | 81 | 69 | 207 |
| Turkey Vulture | 10 | 47 | 14 | 35 | 14 | 120 |
| Osprey | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Mississippi Kite | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 4 |
| Northern Harrier | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 6 |
| <i>Accipiter, sp</i> | | | | 1 | | 1 |

| | Greenv | Spart | Cherok | Aiken | Congar | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 8 | 15 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 42 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | | 20 |
| Killdeer | 21 | 43 | 12 | 66 | | 142 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 1 | | | 5 | | 6 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Least Sandpiper | | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | 4 | | 4 |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Rock Pigeon | 14 | 198 | 36 | | | 248 |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | | 2 | | 6 | | 8 |
| Mourning Dove | 202 | 202 | 73 | 167 | 8 | 652 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 2 | 3 | | 6 | 2 | 13 |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 6 | | | 4 | 3 | 13 |
| Great Horned Owl | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 10 |
| Barred Owl | 6 | 4 | | 9 | 10 | 29 |
| Common Nighthawk | | 27 | | | | 27 |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Chimney Swift | 99 | 1278 | 13 | 46 | 19 | 1455 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 647 | 64 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 721 |
| Calliope Hummingbird | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 4 | 17 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 33 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 3 | 13 | | 44 | 20 | 80 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 39 | 26 | 30 | 58 | 21 | 174 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 24 | 13 | 5 | 28 | 9 | 79 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 8 | | 2 | | 2 | 12 |
| Red-cockaded Woodpecker | | | | 4 | | 4 |
| Northern Flicker | 8 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 29 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 19 | 6 | 4 | 29 | 13 | 71 |
| American Kestrel | | | | | 6 | 6 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | 15 | 4 | 29 | 3 | 51 |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 2 | | | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Willow Flycatcher | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| <i>Empidonax</i> , sp | 1 | | 2 | | | 3 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 27 | 20 | 11 | 7 | | 65 |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | | 9 |
| Eastern Kingbird | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| Loggerhead Shrike | | | 1 | 4 | | 5 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 8 | 13 | 1 | 77 | 17 | 116 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 1 | | | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | | 25 |
| Blue Jay | 124 | 114 | 67 | 95 | 3 | 403 |
| American Crow | 134 | 157 | 177 | 161 | 5 | 634 |
| Fish Crow | 3 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 108 | 145 |
| crow sp. | | | | 27 | | 27 |
| Common Raven | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Tree Swallow | | | | | 205 | 205 |
| Northern Rough-winged | | | | | 388 | 406 |
| Swallow | | | | | 18 | |
| Barn Swallow | | | | | 7 | 7 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 60 | 62 | 20 | 64 | 16 | 222 |

| | Greenv | Spart | Cherok | Aiken | Congar | Total |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Tufted Titmouse | 92 | 56 | 45 | 130 | 37 | 360 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 25 | 12 | 5 | 21 | 7 | 70 |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | 8 | 5 | 4 | 26 | 4 | 47 |
| House Wren | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Winter Wren | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Carolina Wren | 91 | 88 | 37 | 110 | 43 | 369 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 6 | 3 | | 5 | 1 | 15 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 161 | 101 | 64 | 44 | 2 | 372 |
| Veery | 3 | | | | 14 | 17 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | | | | 35 | 35 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 2 | | | | 6 | 8 |
| Hermit Thrush | 3 | | 1 | | | 4 |
| Wood Thrush | 6 | | | | 2 | 8 |
| American Robin | 60 | 22 | 19 | 38 | | 139 |
| Gray Catbird | 18 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 22 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 46 | 54 | 32 | 70 | | 202 |
| Brown Thrasher | 17 | 10 | 10 | 21 | | 48 |
| European Starling | 62 | 196 | 124 | 413 | | 795 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 7 | | | | | 7 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | 4 | | 6 | 3 | 13 |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Connecticut Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 10 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 20 |
| Hooded Warbler | 4 | | | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| American Redstart | 4 | 9 | 2 | 21 | 8 | 44 |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Northern Parula | | 2 | | 46 | 16 | 64 |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Yellow Warbler | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 16 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Palm Warbler | 23 | 2 | 8 | 7 | | 40 |
| Pine Warbler | 18 | 13 | 10 | 110 | 10 | 161 |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Prairie Warbler | | 9 | | 1 | | 10 |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Eastern Towhee | 21 | 8 | 4 | 25 | | 58 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 11 | 12 | 27 | 1 | | 51 |
| Field Sparrow | 9 | 4 | 7 | | | 20 |
| Song Sparrow | 5 | 7 | 2 | | | 20 |
| Swamp Sparrow | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Summer Tanager | | 1 | | 17 | 6 | 24 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 13 | 3 | 4 | | | 20 |
| Northern Cardinal | 92 | 162 | 20 | 120 | 24 | 418 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | 4 | | | | 4 |

| | Greenv | Spart | Cherok | Aiken | Congar | Total |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Blue Grosbeak | 3 | 1 | | 11 | 14 | 29 |
| Indigo Bunting | 112 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 21 | 147 |
| Painted Bunting | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | 7 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | | 4 | | | | 4 |
| Common Grackle | 325 | 62 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 392 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | 24 | 166 | 200 | | 390 |
| Baltimore Oriole | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Purple Finch | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| House Finch | 20 | 42 | | 2 | | 64 |
| American Goldfinch | 133 | 28 | 22 | 10 | 1 | 194 |
| House Sparrow | 42 | 3 | | | | 45 |
| Species | 90 | 89 | 69 | 95 | 61 | 149 |
| Individuals | 3335 | 3758 | 1178 | 3762 | 654 | 12687 |
| Regular Count | | | | | | |
| Hours foot | 28.25 | 28 | 9 | 28.75 | 10 | 104 |
| Hours car | 16 | 23 | 3.5 | 15.75 | | 58.75 |
| Hours boat | 1 | 2.5 | | | | 3.5 |
| Hours canoe/kayak | | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Hours bike | | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Miles foot | 14 | 19.5 | 7 | 14.5 | 6.5 | 61.5 |
| Miles car | 210.1 | 406 | 97 | 188 | | 901.1 |
| Miles boat | 0.5 | 6 | | | | 6.5 |
| Miles canoe/kayak | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Miles bike | | 3 | 4 | | | 7 |
| # Regular parties | 7 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 34 |
| # Regular observers | 28 | 17 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 72 |
| #Species | 89 | 84 | 64 | 93 | 61 | |
| #Individuals | 3274 | 2191 | 1135 | 3719 | 654 | 10973 |
| Feeder Watch | | | | | | |
| Hours Feeder Watch | 4 | 31 | 3 | 2 | | 40 |
| #Feeder Watchers | 2 | 14 | 1 | 2 | | 19 |
| #Feeder Stations | 4 | 9 | 1 | 17 | | 31 |
| #Species | 9 | 34 | 9 | 12 | | 64 |
| #Individuals | 46 | 296 | 42 | 24 | | 408 |
| Nocturnal | | | | | | |
| Hours Nocturnal | 3 | 3 | 0.25 | 3 | 1.33 | 10.58 |
| Miles Nocturnal | 1.6 | 4 | 4 | 13.5 | 10 | 33.1 |
| #parties nocturnal | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 12 |
| #observers nocturnal | 6 | 6 | 1 | 4 | | 17 |
| #Species | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | | 13 |
| #Individuals | 15 | 1271 | 1 | 10 | | 1297 |
| Time start | 0600 | 0700 | 0700 | 0430 | 0530 | |
| Time stop | 1930 | 2000 | 1700 | 1900 | 1800 | |
| Temperature: pre-dawn | 64.9 | 65 | 60 | 70 | | |
| dawn | 66 | 66 | 57 | 70 | | |
| AM | 69.1 | 71 | 64 | 78 | | |
| noon | 73 | 77 | 67 | 80 | | |
| PM | 73 | 83 | 70 | 82 | | |

| | Greenv | Spart | Cherok | Aiken | Congar | Total |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| sunset | 70 | 79 | 63 | 78 | | |
| night | 64.9 | 73 | 60 | 78 | | |
| wind: pre-dawn | s 3.5 | nne 3.5 | nne 3.5 | w 1-2 | | |
| dawn | sw 5.8 | calm | nne 3.5 | w 1-2 | | |
| AM | ssw 8.1 | nne 4.6 | ene 6.9 | w 1-5 | | |
| noon | s 6.9 | calm | nne 10 | w 1-5 | | |
| PM | s 9.2 | sw 8.1 | ene 6.9 | w 3-5 | | |
| sunset | s 5.8 | sw 3.5 | ene 4.6 | w 3-5 | | |
| night | n 11.5 | sw 3.5 | nne 3.5 | w 3-5 | | |
| %clouds: pre-dawn | 80 | 10 | 0 | 20 | | |
| dawn | 80 | 100 | 0 | 20 | | |
| AM | 90 | 80 | 0 | 20 | | |
| noon | 100 | 10 | 0 | 80 | | |
| PM | 100 | 10 | 0 | 100 | | |
| sunset | 100 | 10 | 0 | 100 | | |
| night | 100 | 10 | 0 | 100 | | |
| precipitation: pre-dawn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| dawn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| AM | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| noon | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | trace | | |
| PM | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | trace | | |
| sunset | 0.4 | 0 | 0 | trace | | |
| night | 0.6 | 0 | 0 | trace | | |

Received 22 January 2014

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

First Photographic Record of Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*) in North Carolina

Jeffrey S. Pippen¹, R. Scott Winton², and Brian Patteson³

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³patteson1@embarqmail.com

The authors joined about 20 other birders aboard the *Stormy Petrel II* for a pelagic trip off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina on 18 February 2012. The trip was organized and led by Captain Brian Patteson, with Kate Sutherland, Bob Fogg, and Dave Shoch spotting. Many of the regularly occurring winter target species were found, including Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*), Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucopterus*), Dovekie (*Alle alle*), and Razorbill (*Alca torda*). Trip participants saw at least 38 Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*), more than Patteson had ever recorded in a single day offshore. As the ship was heading back to Hatteras Inlet in the late afternoon and with a little bit of chum remaining, we maintained a flock of gulls and gannets coming to the boat. Less than two miles from Hatteras Inlet, a cry of "Albatross!!" rang out at the stern from spotter Bob Fogg. As expected, excitement and mayhem ensued for a couple of minutes while passengers and crew tried to locate the bird for themselves. To the delight of all on board, the bird settled onto the water very close to the boat, and everyone easily identified a full adult Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*) (Figure 1). A nearby fishing boat with a handful of passengers stopped by to briefly view the bird as well.

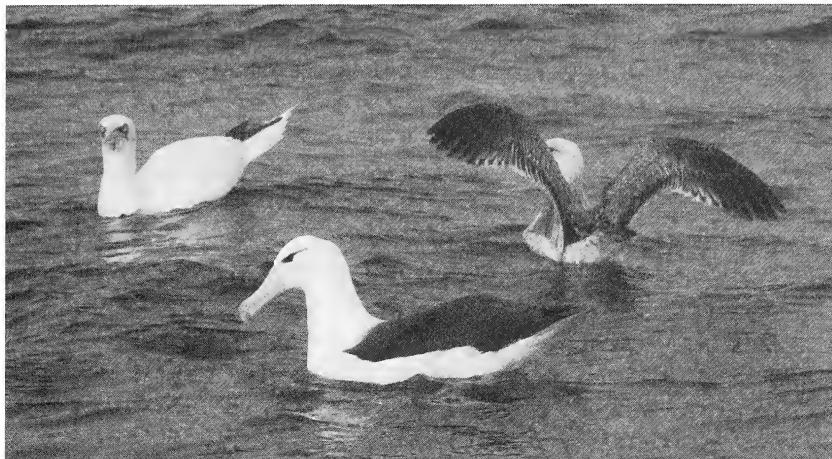


Figure 1. North Carolina's first photographically documented Black-browed Albatross (middle) rests on the water with a Northern Gannet (left), and a Great Black-backed Gull (right). Photo by Jeffrey S. Pippen.

Observers watched the Black-browed Albatross for nearly 45 minutes as thousands of photos were snapped from as close or closer than 10 meters (easily within cell phone camera range). Sutherland attracted the albatross to our wake with the rest of the chum, enabling close range views of the albatross in flight and resting on water with Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*), Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), and other common near-shore birds (Figure 2). It flew with stiff wings, and settled onto the water several times. Finally, just before 5:30 pm EST and as daylight was waning, the albatross took flight and disappeared eastward out of sight as the boat motored toward the inlet full of elated birders.

While the albatross was still in sight, we observed a very large, gull-like bird sitting high on the water. It was bulkier bodied and longer-winged, but relatively more slender-winged, than nearby Great Black-backed Gulls. Its head was large and white with dark eyes, a dark smudge in front of each eye, and a thin, short, dark line behind each eye ending before or just at the nape. The bill was pinkish-orange with a more richly pinkish-orange hooked tip, and nostrils were visible approximately one-fourth the distance from base to tip. The bird's neck was thick and white. Its undersides and rump were white and contrasted sharply with the jet black back, tail and dorsal wings. Its legs and feet were dull grayish-pink. In flight, the underwings were whitish but were outlined with black, which was thicker along the leading edge compared to the trailing edge. We identified this bird as belonging to the nominate subspecies



Figure 2. The Black-browed Albatross (front center) was located less than two miles from Hatteras Inlet. Hatteras Island is visible in the background of this photo. Photo by Jeffrey S. Pippen.

(*T. [m.] melanophris*) rather than the Campbell Albatross (*T. [m.] impavida*) subspecies, which is sometimes treated as a separate species and shows pale yellowish eyes in adults (Howell 2012).

This represents the first photographically documented North Carolina Black-browed Albatross record, which was accepted by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee, elevating this species to the state's Definitive List (Tove et. al. 2013). The only prior North Carolina record accepted by the committee was of two sub-adult birds seen (but not photographed) on 19 August 1972 south of Morehead City (DuMont 1973).

Distribution along the Atlantic Coast

Although there have been approximately 25 reports of Black-browed Albatross in the western north Atlantic, most of these reports have not been reviewed by records committees, and less than 10 have been accepted as valid records (see summaries by Patteson et al. [1999], Davis [2009], and Coffey [2012]). Howell (2012) considers acceptable records only from Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Martinique, but mentions that some of the other reports "may be correct."

The first photographic documentation of Black-browed Albatross in North America occurred on 6 February 1999 off Virginia Beach, Virginia at the Norfolk Canyon (Patteson et al. 1999). In June 2004, a Black-browed Albatross was apparently photographed off Newfoundland for a first photographically documented record in Canadian waters; however, those photographs have not been published to our knowledge (Davis 2009). In August 2009, an adult was well photographed off Newfoundland from a longliner crab fishing vessel (Coffey 2012). Additionally, a sub-adult Black-browed Albatross was photographed off Maine in July 2009 (Peterson 2010).

There were two subsequent Black-browed Albatross records from the western North Atlantic in 2012: a dead adult found in Clyde River, Nunavut in July made for a first province record, and an adult photographed off of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts waters in December (Phil Davis, pers. comm.). Either (but not both) of these birds could theoretically be the same individual that we photographed near Hatteras Inlet in February. The most recent documented Black-browed Albatross record was a 'juvenile' photographed in the Bahamas in July 2013 (Phil Davis, pers. comm.), which is only the second record for the Caribbean and the first since the Martinique bird in 1956.

The Black-browed Albatross is an IUCN Red List category near-threatened species with the most recent world population estimated to be approximately 1,150,000 individuals (Bird Life International 2013). The population has been in decline for several decades, and this decline is mostly attributed to mortality associated with longline and trawling fisheries as well as habitat destruction at nest sites (Bird Life International 2013).

In summary, of the approximately 25 reports of Black-browed Albatross for the western North Atlantic, only eight have been verified by photographic documentation. Our bird is the first Black-browed Albatross to be photographed in North Carolina waters and documents the first *adult* Black-browed Albatross to be photographed within waters of the United States.

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Correction

An editorial mistake was made in the 2013 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee published in the Winter 2014 issue. A paste error resulted in an extra paragraph in the Northern Saw-whet Owl account that should not have been included. The error is not present in the issue as published on-line, but is present in the printed issue. I apologize for this error.

Multiple White-faced Ibises (*Plegadis chihi*) Found at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina

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After field work on 26 February 2013 at the east end of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Hyde County, NC, Winton stopped to view a mixed flock of approximately 40 ibises foraging in a flooded field approximately 50 yards from the side of the dirt road leading to Waupoppon Canal. About two-thirds of the flock were obviously White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*), but unobstructed scope views of 12 of the dark birds revealed that not all were Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*). One individual displayed the field marks of an immature White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*), including a ruby red eye, pinkish facial skin, and pink-red legs, all of which were lacking in the nearby Glossy Ibises (see Figure 1). In side-by-side



Figure 1. North Carolina's third record of White-faced Ibis (left) preens in a flooded field at the east end of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge with two Glossy Ibises on 26 Feb 2013. Photo by R. Scott Winton.

comparison, this White-faced Ibis also appeared to be browner overall with more yellow and pink/purple iridescence in the body and folded flight feathers compared to the nearby Glossy Ibises, which were relatively blacker with more crimson and turquoise tones. Winton obtained multiple digiscoped photos of this bird and the Glossy Ibises with which it was associated.

This report heralded a slew of White-faced Ibis sightings from various parts of Mattamuskeet NWR over the following several weeks. Susan Campbell observed multiple birds in the main impoundment 4 (MI 4), MI 5 (also in the central part of the refuge), and in MI 9 (on the eastern side, not far from the original sighting) between 28 February and 10 April 2013, with as many as five White-Faced Ibises present simultaneously. Campbell captured three in the same photo frame on 26 March 2013 (see Figure 2). The eBird database contains accepted records from 10 additional distinct observers reporting 1, 2, or 3 White-faced Ibises during this time frame.



Figure 2. Multiple White-faced Ibises were found in various parts of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge from late February to early April 2013. This photo shows three individuals (back left, far right, right front) foraging in an impoundment with five Glossy Ibises on 26 March. Photo by Susan Campbell.

Conditions at Mattamuskeet NWR were particularly favorable for ibises and other wading birds during the winter of 2013. Higher than average rainfall gave way to spring drawdowns in the refuge impoundments, and as a result, there was good foraging habitat for wading birds in shallow, muddy areas.

Status of North Carolina records

The North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NCBRC) unanimously accepted collective reports of the White-faced Ibises seen at Mattamuskeet NWR in 2013 (Tove et al. 2014). Just two previous records of White-faced Ibis have been accepted by the NCBRC. The first was a bird seen and photographed in a ditch at South Nags Head from 1 July to 18 July 2002 (LeGrand 2005), and the second was a single-observer sight record from

Mattamuskeet NWR on 28 April 2011 (*Chat* 75:126, 76:2). An old sight report from 1973 (*American Birds* 31:979) was not accepted by the NCBRC because of a lack of documentation (NC Bird Records Committee 1990).

White-faced Ibis, the western counterpart to Glossy Ibis, was considered to be a subspecies (*P. falcinellus chihi*) until the two dark ibis species were split by the American Ornithologists Union in 1983 (Ryder and Manry, 1994). They can be difficult to distinguish in non-breeding condition, especially immatures. Further complicating identity is the possibility of hybrids, which have been well-documented in Oklahoma (Arterburn and Gryzbowski 2003).

Because of the identity challenge, it is widely assumed that White-faced Ibises are frequently overlooked. General comments on the *Birds of North Carolina: Status and Distribution* website (accessed Dec., 2013) describe the history of the species in North Carolina as “embarrassing.”

Distribution along the Atlantic Coast

White-faced Ibis has been reported much more frequently farther north along the Atlantic Coast, with a few dozen accepted eBird records from the Delmarva Peninsula to Portland, Maine. The relative scarcity of White-faced Ibis records in the Southeast (at the time of writing only a combined four records have been accepted by state bird records committees for North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia) could reflect a true pattern of vagrancy, but is more likely to be an artifact of lower observer effort and access to coastal birding sites relative to the mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

While Virginia has at least nine accepted records of White-faced Ibis (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007), records are scarce along the Atlantic coast between northeastern North Carolina and Florida. Despite multiple reports over the years to the carolinabirds listserve and an accepted eBird record from Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, White-faced Ibis has yet to make an appearance on any list of South Carolina birds maintained by the South Carolina Bird Records Committee (SCBRC) (Carolina Bird Club website, accessed Mar., 2014). The SCBRC recently voted not to accept a blurry photograph suggestive of White-faced Ibis taken at Kiawah Island, SC on 12 April 2013 (Hill et al. 2014).

Georgia has two White-faced Ibis records, with a third recent observation of two birds pending acceptance by the Georgia Society of Ornithology records committee. The first was seen at the Bradley Unit of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart County, for a month in spring of 2002 (Beaton et al. 2003). Georgia's second record was photographed at Little St. Simons Island in Glynn County on 24 April 2012 (Georgia Ornithological Society website, accessed Dec. 2013). Georgia's third record, pending approval, was of two birds, an adult and an immature, photographed “in the southwest part of the state” in late October, 2013 (Frontiers of Field ID listserv archives, October 2013, week 4).

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2013-2014, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Winter | December 1–February 28 | due March 20 |
| Spring | March 1–May 31 | due June 20 |
| Summer | June 1–July 31 | due August 20 |
| Fall | August 1–November 30 | due December 20 |

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

*I rely in part on sightings reported in *Carolinabirds*. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from *Carolinabirds*. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.*

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: One was well-seen in the Crow Hill Impoundment, Carteret County (Co), NC, during the Morehead City Christmas Bird Count (CBC), 15 Dec (David Burney, Dennis Chadwick).

Greater White-fronted Goose: A small flock was present in the Bluff Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Clarendon Co, SC, from early December to early February, with high counts of nine geese made 7 Dec (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders) and 15 Jan (Aija & Ed Konrad, Cherrie Sneed). After one was first

discovered at the small pond where US-64 crosses over Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, in early December, three were seen at that site 12 Dec (Ryan Bakelaar) and one remained until 19 Jan (Mike Tove, et al.). Individuals were also found amongst Canada Geese on Silver Lake, Ocracoke, Hyde Co, NC, 31 Dec (Jeff Beane, John Finnegan, Stephanie Horton) and 1 Jan (Gilbert Grant, Nikki Reiber); and at a small pond along US-64 in Roper, Washington Co, NC, 1 Feb (Don Rote) and 9 Feb (Ricky Davis).

Snow Goose: Farther inland than is typical was one on the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 9 Dec (Guy McGrane); one in central South Carolina during the Congaree Swamp CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* John Grego); one on Cane Creek Lake in Orange Co, NC, 16 Dec (Loren Hintz); a blue-phase individual with Canada Geese at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) along Custer Avenue (Ave) in Cumberland Co, NC, during its CBC, 19 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger); one on a small pond along Whitehouse Road (Rd), Richland Co, SC, 13 Jan (Grego); one on Lake Randleman in Randolph Co, NC, 1 Feb (Andrew Thornton); and four, two white-phase and two blue-phase, at Kituwah Farms near Bryson City, Swain Co, NC, 16 Feb (Mike McCloy). Reports from our southern coast included two, one white-phase and one blue-phase, in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 20 Dec (Glenda & Jon Smith); one with Canada Geese at Magnolia Plantation, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Jan (Ray Swagerty) through 26 Jan (Ann Truesdale, et al.); and one, possibly the same individual seen at nearby Magnolia Gardens, in the Village Green subdivision in Charleston Co, SC, 23-26 Feb (Cherrie Sneed).

Ross's Goose: Sightings included one photographed in a field along US-264 near Lake Landing, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Dec (Jeff Beane, Ed Corey, Tony DeSantis); one with Canada Geese at the WTP along Custer Ave in Cumberland Co, NC, during its CBC, 19 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger); two in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 20 Dec (Glenda & Jon Smith) through 2 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); one with Canada Geese at River Park North in Greenville, Pitt Co, NC, 27 Dec through 2 Jan (Chandra Biggerstaff, multiple observers [m. obs.]); three with Canada Geese at Market Commons in Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, SC, where photographed, 1 Jan (Thomas McNeil, Cathy Myers, Paul Serridge) through 7 Jan (Jerry Kerschner); 17, including two blue-phase birds, in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde Co and Washington Co, NC, 19 Jan (Thierry Besançon, et al.); 11, all white-phase, in the Pungo Unit, 26 Jan (Jeff Lewis); one with Snow Geese on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 1 Feb (Ricky Davis, Bill Deans); one with Snow Geese at Kituwah Farms near Bryson City, Swain Co, NC, 16 Feb (Mike McCloy); and one with Canada Geese on a small pond near Lake Randleman in Randolph Co, NC, 28 Feb (Andrew Thornton). The report of 17 in the Pungo Unit, 19 Jan, was the highest count ever made in our region.

Brant: The only historically reliable spot to find this species in our region, Hatteras Inlet, Dare Co, NC, produced multiple sightings in January and February, with a high count of 50, 18 Jan (Loren Hintz).

Cackling Goose: Sightings included one with Canada Geese at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Dec (Jesse Pope, et al.) and 15 Dec (Lee Adams, Peggy Eubank, Audrey Whitlock); four at the small pond where US-64 crosses over Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 3 Jan (Joe Poston); three with Canada Geese at Mattamuskeet NWR, 20 Jan (Thierry Besançon); and one remaining along Beasley Rd, 7 Feb (Derb Carter).

Trumpeter Swan: There were two reports of Trumpeter Swans in North Carolina this winter—an immature individual photographed on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, from Ebenezer Point, 19 Dec (Luis Suau), though never relocated; and one seen in flight and heard calling in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde Co and Washington Co, NC, 7 Feb (Derb Carter) where, according to refuge staff, the swan had been present for several weeks. At time of publication, the Jordan Lake sighting was accepted by the Bird Records Committee (BRC), providing NC with its second definitive record, and the Pungo Unit sighting was pending review.



Trumpeter Swan, 19 December 2013, Jordan Lake, Apex, NC. Photo by Luis Suau.

Tundra Swan: West and/or south of the species' typical range were nine on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 8 Dec (Steve Shultz); two on Lake Benson, Wake Co, NC, during the Raleigh CBC, 14 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger); 250+ on Mary's House Pond at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Colleton Co, SC, 14 Dec (Cherrie Sneed) through 10 Feb (Irvin Pitts); 14 in central South Carolina during the Congaree Swamp CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* John Grego); ten on a pond at Dobbins Farm in Anderson Co, SC, 25 Dec (Ann Bailes); two on Eagle Island,

Brunswick Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (Ron Clark, Katherine Higgins, Taylor Piephoff); one along Old Stage Rd in Yadkin Co, NC, 7 Jan (Becky Clark, Cynthia Dickinson); and three on Arrowhead Lake at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 1 Feb (Doug Hochmuth).

Eurasian Wigeon: Individual drakes were seen at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 14 Dec (R. Bruce Richardson) and 29 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis); on the Bodie Island Lighthouse Pond, Dare Co, NC, 31 Dec (Nathan Gatto) through 11 Jan (Ryan Bakelaar); at a waterfowl impoundment in Hobucken, Pamlico Co, NC, where photographed, 7 Feb (Greg Perry); and at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 17 Feb (Aaron Given, Keith McCullough) through 24 Feb (Steve Compton).

Mottled Duck: One, possibly the same bird first noted in October, was seen on the pond next to the aquarium at Fort (Ft) Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 3 Jan (Jamie Adams, Derb Carter) and 25 Jan (Steve Shultz, et al.).

Northern Shoveler: 105 on the small pond next to the Angus Barn in Wake Co, NC, 16 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders) was a good count for the Piedmont.

Northern Pintail: Some of the higher counts made in the western portion of our region were seven in Henderson Co, NC, during it CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Wayne Forsythe); nine on the east end of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 8 Jan through 1 Feb (Henry Link, et al.); 25 on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 18 Feb (Guy McGrane); and 21 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 20 Feb (Dwayne Martin).

Canvasback: Counts from the western half of our region included four at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 8 Dec (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey); seven on Lake Howell, Iredell Co, NC, 11 Dec (Ron Clark); 28 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 7-9 Jan (Dwayne Martin); 43 on the east end of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 8 Jan (Henry Link, et al.); 78 on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 8 Jan (Mike Turner); five in Rutherford Co, NC, 30 Jan (Bill Booth); ten on Lancaster Reservoir, Lancaster Co, SC, 31 Jan (Steve Patterson); four on Lake Robinson, Greenville Co, SC, 31 Jan (Derek Aldrich); and ten on Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba Co, NC, 8 Feb (Monroe Pannell).

Redhead: Counts from the western half our region included 21 at Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 3 Jan (Mike Turner); 30+ on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 26 Jan (Phil Dickinson); 21 on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 28-30 Jan (Mike Turner); 19 in Rutherford Co, NC, 30 Jan (Bill Booth); 140 on Lake Robinson, Greenville Co, SC, 31 Jan (Derek Aldrich); 100 on the east end of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 1 Feb (Henry Link); 25 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 17-19 Feb (Dwayne Martin); 33 on Broyhill Lake in eastern Caldwell Co, NC, 26 Feb (Martin); and 35 at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 27

Feb (Wayne Forsythe). 30 in flight over the ocean off of Carolina Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 4 Jan (Ricky Davis) were considered locally unusual.

Greater Scaup: Two of the more impressive counts from western NC were 31 on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, 30 Jan (Steve Ritt) and 80 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, 4 Feb (Dwayne Martin).

Lesser Scaup: 490 on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 28 Jan (Mike Turner) was a great count.

Common Eider: In South Carolina, there were multiple sightings around the piers in southern Horry Co and the nearby jetties at Murrells Inlet in northern Georgetown Co—a drake in eclipse plumage photographed at the Garden City Pier, 1 Dec (Lewis Burke, Irvin Pitts); a hen at the Myrtle Beach State Park (SP) Pier, 27 Dec (Ann Wilson) and 28 Dec (Scott Hartley); a first-year drake at Murrells Inlet during the Litchfield - Pawleys Island CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill); a first-year drake at the Myrtle Beach SP Pier, 2 Jan (Cathy Myers, Thomas McNeil) through 7 Jan (Jerry Kerschner); a first-year drake at the Springmaid Pier, 4 Jan (Paul Serridge); two, a first-winter drake and a hen, at Murrells Inlet, 7 Feb (Pitts, et al.) and 12 Feb (Craig Watson, et al.); and four at Murrells Inlet, 16 Feb (Kent Bedenbaugh, Burke, Pitts, Roger Smith). In North Carolina, a hen was found at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, 19 Dec (Carson Wood, et al.) and a first-year drake was found off Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, 2 Jan (Bruce Smithson).

Harlequin Duck: Up to three, up to two drakes and one hen, were seen near Radio Island in Beaufort Harbor, Carteret Co, NC, throughout December (*fide* John Fussell), with two of them photographed during the Morehead City CBC, 15 Dec (Suzanne and Vance Knight, JoAnne Powell, Keith Rittmaster). Four, an adult drake, an adult hen, and two immature drakes, first found under the southern end of Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 18 Dec (Josh Southern) grew to five birds on 8 Feb (Jeff Lewis) and to six birds on 20 Feb (Southern) where they remained into March (m. obs.).

Surf Scoter: Sightings on inland lakes included one on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 10 Dec (Vin Stanton); two on Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 10 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); six on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 4 Jan (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby); and one on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 25 Jan (Lucas Bobay) through 1 Feb (Mike Turner).

White-winged Scoter: This species was found in unprecedented numbers on inland lakes in January and February. Sightings included 14 on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, during its CBC, 5 Jan (Brian Bockhahn, (m. obs.); six on the east end of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 8 Jan (Henry Link); one on Lake Robinson, Greenville Co, SC, 12-14 Jan (Derek Aldrich); two on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 28 Jan (Mike Turner) through 22 Feb (m. obs.); one in the Sandhills Game Land, Richmond Co, NC, where photographed, 30 Jan (Brady Beck); two on Lake

Oliphant, Chester Co, SC, 31 Jan (Steve Patterson); 15 on Mountain Island Lake, Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 1-2 Feb (Taylor Piephoff, Tom Sanders, et al.); ten on Lookout Shoals Lake, border of Catawba Co and Iredell Co, NC, 2 Feb through the end of the period (Dwayne Martin); two on Goose Creek Reservoir, Berkeley Co, SC, 3-6 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); three on Lake James, border of Burke Co and McDowell Co, NC, 4-25 Feb (Martin); three at the Swann WTP in Lewisville, Forsyth Co, NC, 6 Feb (Theresa Edwards); 28 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 8 Feb (Martin); six on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 16 Feb (Enders, Flanders); and two on Lake Murray, Lexington Co, SC, 18 Feb (Irvin Pitts).

Black Scoter: One on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 11 Dec (Ron Clark) was a good find for an inland lake.

Long-tailed Duck: Counts from the coast included ten at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, 4 Jan (Scott Hartley, et al.); 19 off of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 4 Jan (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen); and nine at Murrells Inlet, 16 Feb (Lewis Burke, Kent Bedenbaugh, Irvin Pitts, Roger Smith). Multiple sightings were made in Charleston Co, SC, in early February, including two hens off of Patriot's Point, 2 Feb (John Cox). Two on the Roanoke Sound between Manteo and Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 16 Feb (Jeff Lewis) were locally unusual. At inland sites, sightings included two on the east end of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 9 Jan (Henry Link); a drake on Lake James in Burke Co, NC, 29 Jan (Jamie Cameron) through 25 Feb (Dwayne Martin); five on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 2-27 Feb (Martin); a hen on the Garysburg Goose Ponds in Northampton Co, NC, 7-15 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); two drakes on a private lake in northern Forsyth Co, NC, where photographed, 14 Feb (Cynthia Donaldson, Shelley Rutkin, et al.); a drake on a small pond at the Biltmore Forest Golf Course, Buncombe Co, NC, 17 Feb (Aaron Steed) through 23 Feb (Tony Scardaci); a drake on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 22-24 Feb (Kevin Metcalf, David & Marcia Wright); and nine on the lake at YMCA Camp Harrison in Wilkes Co, NC, 23 Feb (Eric Harrold) and 26 Feb (Martin).

Common Goldeneye: Well-reported on inland lakes in late January into February, counts of goldeneyes included 11 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 23 Jan through 6 Feb (Dwayne Martin); ten at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 26 Jan through 3 Feb (Martin); six on Mountain Island Lake, Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 29 Jan (Kevin Metcalf); six on Lake James, Burke Co, NC, 4 Feb (Martin); two hens on the lake at YMCA Camp Harrison in southwest Wilkes Co, NC, 8 Feb (Eric Harrold) through 26 Feb (Martin); three hens on Lodge Pond at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 10 Feb (Irvin Pitts), with one continuing until 23 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders). Individual hens stuck around a while at a few locations—on a small pond in Wake Co, NC, 24 Dec through 18 Feb (Ryan Justice); in the pond next to the aquarium at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 31 Dec (Bruce Smithson) through 25 Jan (m. obs.); on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 8 Jan (Marbry Hopkins, et al.) through 27 Jan (m. obs.); and on a pond in

Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, from early January to 22 Feb (Jan Bridge, Ken Lundstrom).

Common Merganser: Sightings included two, a drake and a hen, on Roanoke Rapids Lake in Northhampton Co, NC, 1 Dec (Ricky Davis); nine at Farris Memorial Park in Mayodan, Rockingham Co, NC, 9-23 Dec (Martin Wall); one photographed on Mountain Island Lake from Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 15 Dec (Tom Sanders, et al.); three hens on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, John Wright); two hens on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 28 Dec (Merrill Lynch), with as many as ten at that location through 14 Feb (Phil Dickinson, m. obs.); nine on the east end of Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 1 Feb and 28 Feb (Henry Link); two on a small pond in Scuppernong, Washington Co, NC, 19 Jan (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); a hen on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 30 Jan and 21 Feb (Mike Turner); three at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 3 Feb (Dwayne Martin); nine on Belews Lake in Rockingham Co, NC, 5 Feb (Wall); three on Lookout Shoals Lake, border of Catawba Co and Iredell Co, NC, 6-20 Feb (Martin); three on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, 18-19 Feb (Martin); two, a drake and a hen, on the Green River in Polk Co, NC, 24 Feb (Kelly Hughes); and two on Lake James, Burke Co, NC, 25 Feb (Martin).

Red-breasted Merganser: A few of the higher counts from inland lakes were 70 on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 10 Dec (Mike Turner); 22 on Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 10 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); 20 on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 15-16 Feb (Phil Dickinson, m. obs.); 50 on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 18 Feb (Guy McGrane); 60 on Lake Norman, border of Iredell Co and Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 Feb (Kevin Metcalf, David & Marcia Wright); 100+ on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 25 Feb (Martin Wall); and 56 on Lake Hickory, border of Alexander Co and Catawba Co, NC, in late February (Dwayne Martin).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Of questionable origin were individual males photographed along NC-12, one mile south of Salvo, Dare Co, NC, 1 Dec (Jeff Lewis) and at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, in mid-December (Cindy & Ken Groff, *fide* Jack Colcolough).

Red-throated Loon: Sightings on inland lakes included one on Lake Townsend in Guilford Co, NC, 6 Dec (Henry Link, Martin Wall) and 18 Dec (Link, Lou Skrabec, Wall); four on Lake Norman, border of Iredell Co and Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Southern Lake Norman CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff); and six on Lake Norman, four in Lincoln Co and two in Mecklenburg Co, 22 Feb (Kevin Metcalf, David Wright).

Pacific Loon: Multiple sightings were made in New Hanover Co, NC, this winter—one off Figure Eight Island, 15 Dec and 18 Jan (Derb Carter); one on the ocean just south of Mason Inlet, 17 Dec (Katherine Higgins); four off of Johnnie Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach, 21 Dec (Carter); two off of Wrightsville Beach

during the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (Carter, Jeff Pippen); two off Wrightsville Beach during the Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting, 24 Jan (Carter, Ryan Justice, Harry LeGrand, m.obs.); and one off of Johnnie Mercer's Pier, 26 Jan (Taylor Piephoff, et al.) and 15 Feb (Sam Cooper). Elsewhere, individuals were seen on the Pamlico Sound in Carteret Co, NC, from the Cedar Island to Ocracoke Ferry, 6 Jan (Steve Ritt); continuing near the dam on Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 27 Dec (Kevin DeBoer) through 13 Jan (Keith McCullough); and on the ocean just south of Jeanette's Pier, Dare Co, NC, 19 Feb (Josh Southern).

Horned Grebe: A few of the more impressive counts were 93 on Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 2 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); 70 on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 9 Dec (Mike Turner). 62 on Brier Creek Reservoir, Wake Co, NC, 10 Dec (Turner); and 172 on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, during its CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Norm Budnitz)

Red-necked Grebe: Sightings included one near the dam on Lake Gaston, Northampton Co, NC, 1 Dec (Ricky Davis); one near the dam on Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 4 Dec (Caroline Eastman); two on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 12 Dec (Henry Link, Lou Skrabec, George Wheaton) through 16 Dec (Ron Morris); a first-year bird off of Litchfield Beach, Georgetown Co, SC, 1 Jan (Paul Serridge); one on the ocean near Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen); one off Bald Head Island, Brunswick Co, NC, during the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Carter); one off Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Jan (Carter); one on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 26 Jan (Tom Driscoll, Eddie Owens); one on Falls Lake in Wake Co, NC, 31 Jan (Brian Bockhahn); two on Mountain Island Lake, Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 2 Feb (Tom Sanders, et al.); one on a small lake near Harrisburg, Cabarrus Co, NC, where photographed, 7 Feb (Judy Walker, Lee Weber); two at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 20 Feb (Josh Southern); six on Lake Norman in Lincoln Co, NC, 22 Feb (Kevin Metcalf, David Wright); two near Masonboro Inlet, 22 Feb (Sam Cooper); two on Jordan Lake, 23 Feb (Davis); and one near the marina on Lake Townsend, 23 Feb (Link) into spring (m. obs.).

Eared Grebe: Individuals were found at Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 24 Dec (Skip Morgan, Linda Ward); near the jetties at Murrells Inlet, Georgetown Co, SC, during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill); and on the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Ron Clark).

Yellow-nosed Albatross: One was well-seen and photographed on the ocean four miles off of Avon, Dare Co, NC, during a pelagic trip, 22 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.), providing the state with its fourth documented record.



Yellow-nosed Albatross, 24 February 2014, four miles off Avon, NC.

Photo by Brian Patteson.

Northern Fulmar: On pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, counts were one on 28 Dec, 13 on 16 Feb, and ten on 17 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.). Two were seen from a fishing boat about 15 miles off of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 1 Jan (Patteson). An injured and/or weak individual was found along NC-12 in Frisco, Dare Co, NC, 11 Jan (Kate Sutherland) and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator.

Sooty Shearwater: One seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good find for the winter season.

Great Cormorant: At Oregon Inlet in Dare Co, NC, two were seen 16 Dec (Audrey Whitlock) and three were seen there 4 Jan (Whitlock).

Anhinga: An immature/female-plumaged bird photographed on a private farm in Meadow, Johnston Co, NC, 30 Jan (Katrina McDougald) was a great find for a site so far inland.

American White Pelican: 596 along the central coast of South Carolina during the Winyah Bay CBC, 19 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover) was an unusually high count. Other counts included 63 on Mullet Pond at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 1 Dec (Bob Maxwell); 75 at the Georgetown WTP, Georgetown Co, SC, 5 Dec (Dorothy & Richard Rosche); up to 70 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Dec (Sam Cooper, et al.); 92 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, during its CBC, 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes); 18 on the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Sam Cooper); 73 on the

Charleston CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Paul Nolan); and 43 remaining at Pea Island NWR, 1 Feb (Ricky Davis).

American Bittern: The individual first discovered on the small pond at Prairie Ridge Eco-station, Wake Co, NC, 16 Nov (Ryan Justice) remained there through the end of the period (Brian O'Shea, m. obs.).

Least Bittern: Rare in our region during the winter, individual Least Bitterns were found in Colleton Co, SC, during the ACE Basin CBC, 29 Dec (Ann Shahid); and in the canal along the entrance road at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, where photographed, 7 Feb (Lee Adams, Becky Currin, et al.).

“Great White Heron”: One was seen in a roadside canal just south of where NC-94 crosses over the Intercoastal Waterway in Hyde Co, NC, 24 Jan (Susan Campbell).

Great Egret: Unusual for the Piedmont in winter was one on Lake Benson, Wake Co, NC, 11-14 Dec (Kyle Kittelberger); two in York Co, SC, during the York – Rock Hill CBC, 21 Dec (*fide* Bill Hilton); one on a small pond in Orange Co, NC, 28 Jan (Barb Brooks); and one on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 2 Feb (Ryan Justice).

Green Heron: On CBCs in North Carolina, individuals were great finds at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, during the Morehead City CBC, 15 Dec (Rich & Susan Boyd); in New Hanover Co, NC, on the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Sam Cooper); and in Brunswick Co, NC, on the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Taylor Piephoff). As expected, higher counts were made along the southern South Carolina coast, with seven on the CBCs on Hilton Head Island, 14 Dec (*fide* Kathy Greider) and at Sun City – Okatie, 14 Dec (*fide* Jane Deakin).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: An adult seen along the causeway between Manteo and Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Lee Adams) through the end of the period (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock, m. obs.) was unusual for that area in winter.

Glossy Ibis: 110 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 20 Dec (Scott Winton), and 90 there 29 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis), were remarkable counts.

Roseate Spoonbill: One on Upper Hog Island Pond at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 23 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders) was unusual for winter.

Black Vulture: Locally unusual concentrations were 75 at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, 12 Jan (Wayne Forsythe) and 16 on Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 17 Jan (Jeff Lewis).

Swainson's Hawk: One was photographed in flight over the sparrow field on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, during a New Hope Audubon Society field trip, 18 Jan (Tom Driscoll, et al.).

Golden Eagle: Sightings included a juvenile near the dam on Lake Hartwell, Anderson Co, SC, 16 Dec (Lewis Burke); an adult over the fields west of Buffalo City Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, during its CBC, 30 Dec (Neal & Pat Moore); an adult in flight between Grandfather Mountain and Linville, Avery Co, NC, 18 Jan (Jesse Pope); and an adult in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde Co and Washington Co, NC, 9 Feb (Ricky Davis, Steve Howell).

Purple Gallinule: A moribund first-winter bird was found alongside NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, where photographed, 11 Dec (Kevin Keeler).

Sandhill Crane: A pair was seen around Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, again this winter, roosting at the Rachel Carson Reserve and often feeding in fields adjacent to the Beaufort airport (John Fussell, m. obs.). A fairly large flock wintered in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, with 23 counted there 1 Dec (Elisa Enders), 40 there 21 Dec (Cathy Miller, Roger Smith) and 13 Jan (Keith McCullough), and 18 remaining 2 Feb (Enders, Nick Flanders). Other sightings included one in a wet field along Butler Bridge Rd in Henderson Co, NC, 8-9 Dec (Kevin Metcalf, Jon Smith, Simon Thompson); two in central South Carolina during the Congaree Swamp CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* John Grego); four in a field along Witty Rd in Rockingham Co, NC, 17-21 Dec (Martin Wall, m. obs.); two in a field along Red Hill Church Rd in Edgecombe Co, NC, 20-26 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, m. obs.); seven in central South Carolina during the Pinewood CBC, 2 Jan (*fide* Julie Hovis); two, possibly the same birds seen in the Red Hill area, in a field just east of Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC, 26 Jan (Enders, Flanders, Cody Stone).

American Avocet: Locally unusual was one on Eagle Island, Brunswick Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (*fide* Sam Cooper); two continuing from fall at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen); one remaining at Ft Fisher, 26 Jan (Martin Wall); and one at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 30 Jan (Jerry Kerschner). 390 were counted in Dare Co, NC, during the Bodie – Pea Island CBC, 28 Dec (*fide* Paul Sykes).

Black-bellied Plover: 1000+ at North River Farms (restricted access), Carteret Co, NC, 12 Jan (Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell, Marilyn Shuping) was a notable count.

Wilson's Plover: Rare winter sightings included three at Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 4 Dec (John Fussell, John Voigt); two on the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Ron Clark); and five on the Charleston CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Paul Nolan).

Piping Plover: Ten at Bird Shoal, Rachel Carson Reserve, Carteret Co, NC, 4 Dec (John Fussell, John Voigt) and 21 in Beaufort Co, SC, during the Lowcountry CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Ken Scott) were good counts.

Killdeer: 400 along Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Feb (Wayne Forsythe) was an unusual concentration.

Spotted Sandpiper: Unusual inland and along our northern coast in winter, individuals were noted in Ogden, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Dec (Daniel Hueholt); on the Charlotte CBC, 21 Dec (*fide* Ken Kneidel); on Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 22 Dec (Connie & Stan Wulkowicz); and on Radio Island in Beaufort Harbor, Carteret Co, NC, 17 Jan (Chandra Biggerstaff, John Fussell, Jeannie Kraus). Two on the Greenville [NC] CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Veronica Pantelidis) were good finds. The highest count from our southern coast was 37 on the Hilton Head Island CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Kathy Greider).

Purple Sandpiper: Counts included six on the rock groin at south end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 9 Dec (Jesse Pope, et al.); 31 on the Winyah Bay CBC, 19 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover); 60 on the Wilmington CBC, 1 Jan (*fide* Sam Cooper); 18 on a rock groin at Breach Inlet, Charleston Co, SC, 25 Jan (John Cox); and 42 on Sullivan's Island, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Feb (Hal Currey).

Least Sandpiper: Four at Lick Creek Waterfowl Impoundment in Durham Co, NC, 20 Dec (Mike Turner) were unusual for the NC Piedmont in winter.

American Woodcock: An unusual concentration of Woodcocks was noted on Oak Island, Brunswick Co, NC, after the passage of a winter storm, with 200+ seen 31 Jan (Joy Hosier) and 60 seen 1 Feb (Sherry Lane, Bruce Smithson).

Great Skua: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec, 16 Feb, and 22 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Pomarine Jaeger: A dark-phase individual was seen off of Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen).

Parasitic Jaeger: Individuals were seen over the ocean off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand); off Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Jan (Carter), 25 Jan (Jesse Pope, Steve Shultz, et al.), and 27 Feb (Bruce Smithson); off Holden Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 20 Jan (Taylor Piephoff); off Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, in mid-January (Jamie Adams) and 24 Jan (Robert Meehan, m. obs.); and off Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 23 Feb (Carter, Jeff Pippen).

Razorbill: This species did not irrupt into our region like it did the past couple of winters. Counts made from shore of Razorbills on the ocean included three off of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand); 12 off of Ft Fisher,

New Hanover, Co, during the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Ricky Davis); 72 flying south off beaches in New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Jan (Carter); five off of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 24 Jan (Carter, LeGrand); and seven off Jeanette's Pier, Dare Co, NC, 20 Feb (Josh Southern). Ten were seen on the Pamlico Sound in Carteret Co, NC, from the Cedar Island to Ocracoke Ferry, 6 Jan (Steve Ritt). On pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, counts included 20 on 28 Dec, 270 on 16 Feb, 157 on 17 Feb, and 32 on 22 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Three were seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 28 Dec (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Black-headed Gull: An adult was seen at the WTP along New Rd near Conway, Horry Co, SC, 9 Jan (Chris Hill, Paul Serridge, et al.) through 14 Feb (Hill).

Little Gull: An adult seen over the ocean off of Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Ricky Davis, David McCloy, Mike McCloy, Jeff Pippen) made that count one of only seven counts reporting Little Gulls this year. On pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, two were seen 17 Feb, and one was seen 27 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.). One was seen over the ocean off Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 23 Feb (Derb Carter, Pippen).

Franklin's Gull: An adult was photographed on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Southern Lake Norman CBC, 15 Dec (Penny Soares, Chris Talkington, David Wright, et al.).

California Gull: An adult was found on Holden Beach side of Lockwood Folly Inlet, Brunswick Co, NC, 20 Jan (Taylor Piephoff). One was also seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 27 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Iceland Gull: Individuals, all first-winter birds, were seen at the landfill in Horry Co, SC, 6 Jan (Chris Hill) through 1 Feb (Steve Compton, Richard Hayes); on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 25 Jan (Lucas Bobay); on the south end of Figure Eight Island, New Hanover Co, NC, 5 Feb (Jamie Adams); between Avon and Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 12 Feb (Brian Patteson); and at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 16 Feb (Adams).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Inland sightings included one on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 27 Dec (Mike Turner); five on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, during its CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Norm Budnitz.); 15 inside a flock of Ring-billed Gulls in Edgecombe Co, NC, 26 Jan (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders); five at the landfill in Holly Springs, Wake Co, NC, 30 Jan (Scott Winton); six at the landfill in Horry Co, SC, 1 Feb (Steve Compton); an adult on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 7 Feb (Henry Link); and a first-winter bird on Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 Feb (Kevin Metcalf, David & Marcia Wright). 578 in Dare Co, NC, during the Cape Hatteras CBC, 27 Dec (Pat Moore) was by far the highest count of this species on any Audubon Christmas Bird Count this year.

“Nelson’s Gull”: A hybrid of a Glaucous Gull and a Herring Gull, a Nelson’s Gull was photographed during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 17 Feb (Jeff Lemons, Brian Patteson, et al.).

Glaucous Gull: Individual first-year birds were seen in the harbor in Wanchese, Dare Co, NC, 4 Jan (Jeff Lewis) through 15 Jan (David Lenat, Doug Pratt); at the landfill in Horry Co, SC, 6 Jan through 14 Feb (Chris Hill); and at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 23 Feb (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen).

Great Black-backed Gull: Inland sightings included two on nearby lakes in Guilford Co, NC, 18 Dec (Henry Link); an adult on Lake Marion at Santee SP, Orangeburg Co, SC, during the Santee NWR CBC, 21 Dec (Jeff Click, Irvin Pitts); six on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, during its CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Norm Budnitz); a first-year bird on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 25 Jan (Lucas Bobay) through 1 Feb (Mike Turner); and two inside a flock of Ring-billed Gulls in Edgecombe Co, NC, 26 Jan (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders).

Caspian Tern: Two seen on Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, during the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen) were unusual for winter.

Sandwich Tern: Lingering into winter was one at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, found during the McClellanville CBC, 15 Dec (Jeff Click, Craig Richard, Chris Snook); and three in Georgetown Co, SC, during the Winyah Bay CBC, 19 Dec (*fide* Lex Glover).



“Nelson’s Gull”, 17 February 2014, pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC. Photo by Jeff Lemons.

Band-tailed Pigeon: Possibly the most exciting bird of the period was an adult Band-tailed Pigeon that reliably visited a yard in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, where it was seen by over a hundred visiting birders, 7 Jan (Hank Griffin) through the end of the period (m. obs.). This bird provided NC with its fourth record of this vagrant from the western United States.

White-winged Dove: One was photographed along Second Bend Rd in Dorchester Co, SC, 7 Dec (Pam Ford, Perry Nugent).

Common Ground-Dove: One photographed under a feeder near Richfield, Stanly Co, NC, 13 Feb (Amy Lykins) was quite surprising.

Snowy Owl: This species made a historic and news-making southward irruption this winter. In North Carolina, individuals, most of which were immature birds, were seen at Cape Point, Dare Co, 26 Nov (Marcia Lyons) through 12 Dec (*fide* Lyons); at the Neuse River WTP, Wake Co, where photographed, 2 Dec (Barry Thornton); along Meredell Farm Rd in Randolph Co, where photographed, 3 Dec (Alan Peoples); in Transylvania Co, 7 Dec (Jerry Griggs, Simon Thompson, et al.) through 9 Dec when it was taken to wildlife rehabilitator (*fide* Thompson); in Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, where photographed in mid-December (*fide* "Lumina News"); at the eastern end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, where photographed 15 Dec (Jon Altman); near Bay Tree Lake, Bladen Co, a moribund bird, 18 Dec (*fide* Brian O'Shea); perched on a roof in Avon, Dare Co, 20 Dec (Jan Heininger, Lyons, Pat & Neal Moore) and 21 Dec (Ann Maddock, Audrey Whitlock, et al.); perched on a lightpole in a bank parking lot in Washington, Beaufort Co, 21 Dec (Adam Stuckert, et al.); in the dunes at the south side of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, 27 Dec (Lucas Bobay); in flight at the north end of Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, during the Bodie-Pea Island CBC, 28 Dec (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Lewis); in Southern Shores, Dare Co, 6 Jan (*fide* Nate Swick) through 12 Jan (*fide* Jeff Lewis); and at the east end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, 10 Jan (Jamie Adams, Sam Cooper, Wayne Ivosevic). Two were reliably seen on Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Dec (Hal Broadfoot) through the end of the period (Peter Vankevich, m. obs.). Oddly, only two were found in South Carolina—an individual seen on Cape Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, by a refuge volunteer, 2 Dec, and during the McClellanville CBC, 15 Dec (Jeff Click,



Band-tailed Pigeon, 23 January 2014, Manteo, NC. Photo by Sam Cooper.

Craig Richard, Chris Snook); and one photographed perched on a pier on Lake Marion, from the Francis Marion subdivision in Clarendon Co, SC, 27 Feb (Betsy & Rich Bergen).



Snowy Owl, 31 December 2013, Ocracoke Island, NC. Photo by Jeff Beane.

Long-eared Owl: One was heard near Somerset Place, Pettigrew SP, Washington Co, NC, 17 Jan (Eddie Owens, Steve Rogers, et al.) through mid-February (m. obs.).

Short-eared Owl: Sightings included two at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 9 Dec (Brian Barchus) through mid-February (m. obs.); one along US-70 in Wayne Co, NC, 16 Dec (Brian Bockhahn, Kyle Kittelberger); eight at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, during its CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis); and one along NC-12 at Cedar Island NWR, Carteret Co, NC, 6 Jan (Steve Ritt).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Unusual away from the coast in winter, individuals, both immature males, visited feeders in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 7 Dec through the end of the period (Susan Campbell, Patty Tice) and in Chatham Co, NC, during the winter (*fide* Campbell). Up to 22 visited feeders in a single yard in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, during the winter (Ann Maddock).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 28 December 2013, Wake County, NC. Photo by Patty Tice.

Rufous Hummingbird: One visited a feeder along Sugar Hollow Rd in Buncombe Co, NC, at 2275 foot elevation, from late fall through at least 14 Dec (Nora Murdock, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). An adult female visited a yard in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 25 Nov through 7 Jan (Phil Dickinson). Adult females were banded in a different yard in Winston-Salem, 13 Dec (Susan Campbell, Ann Williams); in Lenoir, Caldwell Co, NC, 18 Dec (Dwayne Martin); and in Columbia, Richland Co, SC, in late January (Natalie Smith). Six, five adult males and one banded female, visited feeders in the greater Charlotte, NC, area during the winter (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). Two, and adult female and an immature male, visited a yard in Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, throughout the period, and



Rufous Hummingbird, 25 January 2014, Wake County, NC. Photo by Patty Tice.

were banded 16 Dec (Campbell, Lena Gallitano). Two, an immature female and adult female, visited a different yard in Wake Co, throughout the winter, where they were banded 16 Dec and 20 Jan respectively (Campbell, Patty Tice).

Allen's Hummingbird: A second-year male visited a feeder in Oriental, Pamlico Co, NC, from 30 Sep through 21 Jan (Liz Lathrop), and was banded 11 Jan (Susan Campbell). This bird provided North Carolina with its third official record of this species.

Calliope Hummingbird: A female visited a feeder in Mecklenburg Co, NC, where it was also banded, throughout the period (Dwayne Martin, Taylor Piephoff, m.obs.).

***Selasphorus* Hummingbird:** One in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 20 Dec through the end of the period (Bill Hettler) was unusual, as wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are more typical in that area. 26 birds not identified to species visited feeders in the greater Charlotte, NC, area this winter (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

Peregrine Falcon: Two, an adult and an immature bird, were seen on and around the Wells Fargo Building in downtown Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 17 Dec (Phil Dickinson, Jim Martin) and intermittently through February.

Say's Phoebe: Amazingly, two were found at separate locations in Washington Co, NC, on the same day, 27 Dec—one along Canal B Rd, just west of Lake Phelps (Don Rote), recorded on the Pettigrew SP CBC but not seen again thereafter; and another along Beasley Rd, just south of its junction with US-64 (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand), seen by multiple birders through 19 Jan (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: One was found in a residential area of Ogden, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Dec (Daniel Hueholt). After one was first found along Milltail Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 22 Dec (Dick Barmore, Chandra Biggerstaff, Elizabeth White), two were found in the same area during its CBC, 30 Dec (Jeff Lewis), and at least one remained there through 19 Jan (Thierry Besançon, Loren Hintz, et al.).

Western Kingbird: Sightings, quite numerous this winter, included one at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 9 Dec (Jay Ross); one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Dec (John Ennis) through 26 Jan (Jesse Pope, et al.); one in Kitty Hawk, Dare Co, NC, during its CBC, 14 Dec (Peggy Eubank) and continuing 15 Dec (Ryan Bakelaar); one at Mansfield Park in Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, during its CBC, 15 Dec (Carol Reigle); one at the southern end of Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Dec (Shun Endo); two at the same location, 31 Dec (Katherine Higgins) through 1 Jan (Sam Cooper); one in a private community in Georgetown Co, SC, 17 Jan (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly, Edward Landi); one photographed near the Hatteras Island Visitors Center in Buxton, Dare Co, NC, 19 Jan (Jason Gardner); and up to three at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Feb (Kevin DeBoer, m. obs.) through 7 Feb (Craig & Shelley Watson).



Western Kingbird, 01 January 2014, New Hanover, NC. Photo by Sam Cooper.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: An adult was seen on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Dec (Chris Wood) through 13 Jan (David McLean). In our region, this species is rarer during the winter than any other season.

Loggerhead Shrike: One present a few miles north of Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 15 Dec (Barbara & Genny Pigott, JoAnne Powell) through the end of the period (Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell) was considered locally unusual.

White-eyed Vireo: Six in a southeastern portion of the Croatan National Forest (NF) at, border of Carteret Co and Craven Co, NC, 3 Dec (John Fussell) and nine at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, during its CBC, 30 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis) were good counts for winter.

Horned Lark: 59 in the fields around the Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, after the passage of a winter storm, 30 Jan (Sam Cooper) was an interesting concentration.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: One near the marina on Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 18 Dec (Henry Link) was quite late, while one photographed at Lake Gaston in Warren Co, NC, 24 Feb (Paul Scharf) was somewhat early.

Cave Swallow: Individuals were found at the northern end of North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 13 Dec (Gilbert Grant) and at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, during the McClellanville CBC, 15 Dec (Jeff Click, Craig Richard, Chris Snook).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two in Moore Co, NC, during the Southern Pines CBC, 18 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell) were good finds for that area in winter. Other good counts for NC were four in Carteret Co, during the Morehead City CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* John Fussell) and four at the Quarry (restricted access) in Craven Co, during the New Bern CBC, 16 Dec (Chandra Biggerstaff, Bob Gould, Christine Root). 17 in Chesterfield Co, SC, during the Carolina Sandhills NWR CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* Nancy Jordan) was a record number for that count.

Swainson's Thrush: One seen and photographed in a yard in Lexington Co, SC, 5-11 Dec (Irvin Pitts) was the latest ever documented in South Carolina.

Lapland Longspur: Sightings included two at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 15 Dec (Jeff Click, Craig Richard, Chris Snook); three in a field next to the



Northern Rough-winged Swallow,
24 February 2014, Lake Gaston in
Warren County, NC.
Photo by Paul Scharf.

Rocky Mount WTP, off NC-97 in Edgecombe Co, NC, 26 Jan (Ricky Davis); one photographed on Fripp Island (restricted access), Beaufort Co, SC, 16 Feb (Buddy Campbell); and three along Hooper Lane in Henderson Co, NC, 27 Feb (Wayne Forsythe).

Snow Bunting: Two remained at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 9 Dec (Jesse Pope, et al.) from late November. Seven were seen at Jockey's Ridge SP, Dare Co, NC, 8 Feb (*fide* Jeff Lewis) through the end of the period (m. obs.).

Ovenbird: Wintering individuals visited feeders at Riverbend Park, Catawba Co, NC, 8 Dec through the end of the period (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby) and in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 30 Jan through the end of the period (Jeff Lewis). Four were found in Buxton Woods, Dare Co, NC, during the Hatteras CBC, 27 Dec (Lena Gallitano, Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock).

Northern Waterthrush: A wintering individual was found at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 26 Jan (Ann Truesdale, et al.).

Black-and-white Warbler: Six in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, NC, 7 Dec (John Fussell) was a good count for that area in winter. Two were found along the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, during its CBC, 29 Dec (Jeff Lewis). Two in Moore Co, NC, during the Southern Pines CBC, 18 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell) were good finds for an area so far from the coast.

Nashville Warbler: Individuals near the intersection of Butler Rd and Sawyer Lake Rd at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, during its CBC, 30 Dec (Linda Ward) and in a yard in Charleston Co, SC, where photographed, 1 Jan (Keith McCullough) were great finds for winter.



Nashville Warbler, 01 January 2014, in West Ashley, SC. Photo by Keith McCullough.

Northern Parula: Individuals were found on two CBCs in South Carolina—on the Congaree Swamp CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* John Grego) and on the Four Holes Swamp CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Matthew Johnson).

Yellow Warbler: Sightings included one in central South Carolina, during the Congaree Swamp CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* John Grego); two in eastern North Carolina, during the New Bern CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Bob Holmes); and one on Bald Head Island, Brunswick Co, NC, during the Southport CBC, 5 Jan (Derb Carter).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: An adult male visited a suet feeder north of Hillsborough, Orange Co, NC, for a week in early January, and was photographed 8 Jan (Sue Monahan).

“Audubon’s” Warbler: A sub-species of Yellow-rumped Warbler from the western United States, formerly considered a separate species, an Audubon’s Warbler was found at the Goose Creek Naval Weapons Station (restricted access) in Berkeley Co, SC, 11 Dec (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Individuals over-wintered in yards in Straits, Carteret Co, NC, for a second year in a row (Carolyn & Don Hoss); in Arapahoe, Pamlico Co, NC, (Dick Barmore, Elizabeth White); in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, (Cherrie & Dan Sneed); and in the Elizabethan Gardens, Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 12 Dec through the end of the period (Jeff Lewis).

Prairie Warbler: One on the Four Holes Swamp CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Matthew Johnson) was a first for that count. Another individual was seen around Dingle Pond at Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 20 Jan (Christopher Davies, David Gardner).

Townsend’s Warbler: One, originally reported as a Black-throated Green Warbler, was found on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, during the Charleston CBC, 5 Jan (Andrew Johnson). If accepted by the state’s BRC, this sighting would provide the state with its first record of this warbler from the western United States.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Very rare in our region in winter, a Black-throated Green Warbler was photographed at Roxbury Park in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Jan (Keith Carman).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was seen in the same yard in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, where the Band-tailed Pigeon was seen, 8 Jan through the end of the period (Hank Griffin, Jeff Lewis, et al.). Another individual visited a yard in South Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, SC, 28 Feb through 3 Mar (Dorothy & Richard Rosche).

Bachman’s Sparrow: Counts included 11 in Onslow Co, NC, during the Camp Lejeune CBC, 20 Dec (John Fussell) and five in the Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender Co, NC, 25 Jan (Fussell, et al.). Fussell notes that “it has become evident that

this species is a regular winter resident in longleaf/wiregrass areas in the outer Coastal Plain that are maintained with regular fire.”

Clay-colored Sparrow: This winter’s high count at North River Farms (restricted access), Carteret Co, NC, was five birds on 2 Feb (Jack Fennell, John Fussell). Two were reliably seen in the sparrow field across from the Cypress Point overlook on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 22 Dec (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders) through 23 Jan (Josh Southern, Sterling Southern).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Individuals were found at Cowan’s Ford Wildlife Refuge in Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Southern Lake Norman CBC, 15 Dec (*fide* Taylor Piephoff); on the Four Holes Swamp CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Matthew Johnson); on the ACE Basin CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* David Chamberlain); and at North River Farms (restricted access), Carteret Co, NC, 16 Feb (Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell). Four, a great count for winter, were found on the Savannah River Site CBC, 19 Dec (*fide* Mark Vukovich).

Henslow’s Sparrow: One found on the ACE Basin CBC, 29 Dec (Pete Laurie) was the only one reported in the Carolinas this winter.

Le Conte’s Sparrow: Four found in the Pine Island Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, during the Santee CBC, 21 Dec (Matthew Sarver) was a good count.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: Seven found in a portion of the Dare County Bombing Range (restricted access) that had burned during the summer of 2011, during the Alligator River NWR CBC, 30 Dec (John Fussell) was a great count. Counts of two were made near the upper boat ramp on Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 30 Dec (Lucas Bobay) and in Pitt Co, NC, during the Greenville CBC, 5 Jan (*fide* Veronica Pantelidis). Individuals were seen in the Croatan NF, Craven Co, 3 Dec and 15 Dec (Fussell); in Buncombe Co, NC, during its CBC, 14 Dec (*fide* Jamie Harrelson); in Pamlico Co, NC, during its CBC, 17 Dec (*fide* Liz Lathrop); in Frisco, Dare Co, NC, during the Cape Hatteras CBC, 27 Dec (Fussell); and in the sparrow field on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 23 Jan (Josh Southern, Sterling Southern).

White-crowned Sparrow: A few of the better counts were 150 in Henderson Co, NC, during its CBC, 29 Dec (*fide* Wayne Forsythe); 23 along Prater Gin Rd near Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 13 Jan (Keith McCullough); and nine in a field just east of Tarboro, Edgecombe Co, NC, 26 Jan (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders).

Summer Tanager: Individuals visited feeders in Beaufort Co, SC, during the Hilton Head Island CBC, an adult male, photographed, 14 Dec (*fide* Kathy Greider); in Charleston Co, SC, a female or first-year bird, photographed, 25 Dec (Richard Hayes); in Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, a female for the fifth winter in a row, seen during the week of the Wilmington CBC, 4 Jan (Amy Williamson); and in

Jacksonville, Onslow Co, NC, an adult male, photographed, 18 Jan (Elizabeth Swarckof).

Western Tanager: Multiple birds visited feeders towards the end of the period—a male in Macon Co, NC, where photographed, 3 Jan (Ruth Vincent); a male in Beaufort Co, SC, where photographed, 13 Jan into February (Diane Rand); a female in Mt. Pleasant, Charleston Co, SC, where banded, 24 Feb (Lex Glover, Hank & Sally West) through 8 Feb (Brad Dalton); a male in Southern Shores, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 29 Jan through mid-February (Elizabeth Morey, m. obs.); two, a male and a female, in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 16 Feb through the end of the period (Fran Jolliff, m. obs.); a female in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret Co, NC, 17 Feb through the end of the period (Yvette Bannen, John Fussell); and a male in Hanahan, Berkeley Co, SC, where photographed, 28 Feb into March (Jack & Pat Eckstine).

Painted Bunting: Individuals visited feeders in South Myrtle Beach, Horry Co, SC, a female, 20-25 Jan (Dorothy & Richard Rosche); in Arapahoe, Pamlico Co, NC, an adult male, 29-30 Jan (Dick Barmore, Elizabeth White); in Elizabeth City, Pasquotank Co, NC, a female, 29 Jan through 22 Feb (Shirley Remaley); in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, an adult male, 31 Jan (*fide* Al Gamache); in Mooresville, Iredell Co, NC, where photographed, an adult male, 13 Feb (Amanda Alexander); and in Randolph Co, NC, a female, 16-18 Feb (Sarah McCrory). At least five birds were visiting feeders along the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina in mid-to-late February (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

Dickcissel: A first-winter male was found at North River Farms (restricted access), Carteret Co, NC, 8 Dec (Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell, JoAnne Powell). Individuals found on the New Bern CBC, 16 Dec (*fide* Bob Holmes) and at the Water Reclamation Facility along Farrington Rd in Durham Co, NC, during the Chapel Hill CBC, 22 Dec (Brian Bockhahn) were new species for both counts.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Individuals were found inside large blackbird flocks in fields along US-301 in Orangeburg Co, SC, 5 Jan (Lewis Burke, Roger Smith) and along Shepherd Rd in Brunswick Co, NC, an adult male, 25 Jan (Carolina Bird Club meeting participants) through 1 Feb (Jamie Adams, Carson Wood, Bruce Young).

Brewer's Blackbird: A small flock was seen at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, a reliable site for the species in past winters, 9 Jan (Brad Dalton) through 15 Jan (Cherrie Sneed, et al.). One well-seen at Jackson Park in Henderson Co, NC, 17 Jan (John Lindfors, Ron Selvey) was a surprise. A flock of 45+ on private property in lower Orangeburg Co, SC, 17 Feb (Dennis Forsythe) was an excellent count for our region.

Boat-tailed Grackle: Three in the Pine Island Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 2 Feb (Elisa Enders, Nick Flanders) were unusual for an area so far from the coast.

Red Crossbill: Four were seen in the main parking area of the Cataloochee Ski Area, Haywood Co, NC, 26 Jan (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). 36 were counted on Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 25 Feb (Rick Knight).



Common Goldeneye, 25 January 2014, Charlotte, NC.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Make checks payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Send checks or correspondence regarding membership or change of address to the Headquarters Secretary, or use this web address: <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/about.html>. Dues include \$6 for a subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and \$7 for a subscription to *The Chat*.

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The Chat

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